AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-21. (Canceled)

22. (New)   A method for executing commands on a remote device, comprising the following steps:

creating a queue containing a sequence of commands to be executed on the remote device;

sequentially providing the commands in the queue to an agent running on the remote device for execution;

initiating a reboot process on the remote device;

placing the queue in a reboot status in response to the initiation of the reboot process;

detecting the completion of the reboot process at the remote device;

removing the queue from reboot status in response to said detection and checking the queue to determine if any commands in the sequence have not yet been completed; and

resuming the step of sequentially providing commands in the queue to the agent if uncompleted commands are determined to be present in the queue.

23. (New)   The method of claim 22, wherein said command queue is stored in a database that is remote from said device.

24. (New)   The method of claim 22, wherein said reboot process is initiated by transmitting a reboot command from a central location to said agent on the remote device.

25. (New)   The method of claim 23, wherein said queue is placed in said reboot status in response to receipt of a message from the agent on the remote device indicating that the reboot process is in progress.

26. (New)   The method of claim 25, wherein said agent opens a new communication session with said central location to transmit said message.

27. (New)   The method of claim 26, wherein said new communication session comprises a secure socket.

28. (New)   The method of claim 22, wherein the completion of the reboot process is detected by receipt of a message from the agent on the remote device.

29. (New)   The method of claim 22, wherein the step of sequentially providing commands to the agent comprises the steps of:

retrieving a command from the queue and transmitting said command to the agent;

receiving a message from the agent reporting the results of the execution of the command; and

retrieving the next command from the queue in response to receipt of said message and transmitting it to the agent.

30. (New)   The method of claim 29, further including the step of updating the status of the queue to indicate the command that has been most recently transmitted to the agent for execution.

31. (New)   The method of claim 22, wherein said sequence of commands cause the agent to install and configure software on the remote device.